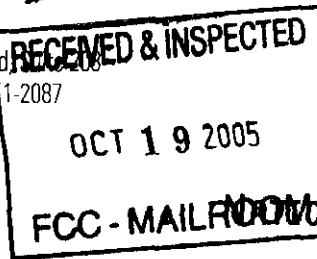


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NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of
Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45**

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the National Rural Health Association, I am writing to nominate Alison Hughes to serve as the representative for rural health care providers that are eligible to receive discounts through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Ms. Hughes has served in this capacity over the past three years, and has expressed willingness to continue in this position. During her tenure on the board, she has regularly maintained contact with rural constituencies to inform us about USAC's activities and opportunities. She has been extremely committed to understanding the inner workings of the rural discount program to the extent that it can offer eligible rural agencies an advantage.

The National Rural Health Association is a membership organization that represents more than ten thousand diverse members, including hospitals, clinics, behavioral health providers, public health agencies, and academia. Ms. Hughes has been an influential member of our Policy Board for the past three years and has been active in the organization for two decades. She is an expert in rural health issues and understands the various constituencies that we serve. Her affiliation with the Arizona Telemedicine Program since its inception is extremely beneficial to USAC as it gives her much experience with telehealth programs. Ms. Hughes' long-term commitment to rural health interests continues to benefit our organization and the country. We urge you to re-appoint her to the USAC board.

Sincerely,

Alan Morgan
Chief Executive Officer

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List A B C D E

Biographical Sketch

Alison M. Hughes
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Tucson, Arizona 85719
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Email: ahughes@u.arizona.edu
Alison1@dakotacom.net

Employment

2001-2005 Director, Rural Health Office (retired as RHO director 7/1/05)
2000-present Director, Arizona Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, Rural Health Office, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
1996-present Associate Director, Outreach, Arizona Telemedicine Program, University of Arizona
1985-present Lecturer in public policy and leadership, University of Arizona
1982-83 U.S. Congress. Congressional Aide, District 2 Arizona
1975-82 Executive Director, Tucson Women's Commission
1970-75 Grants Coordinator, Pima Community College

Volunteer Positions in Professional Organizations

National

National Association of State Offices of Rural Health, Board Member (President-Elect)
Universal Services Administrative Corporation, Board Member (2002-2005)
National Rural Health Association, Policy Board Member (present)

State

\$ Arizona Rural Health Association (board president 2005-06)
\$ Arizona State Legislature, Rural Physician Study Committee 2002-03. Legislative appointment.
\$ Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Services, AED Advisory Committee 2002-03
\$ Health Services Advisory Group, Consumer Advisory Board, 2003
X Arizona Department of Health Services, hospital bioterrorism committee, 2002-present
X Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Native American Liaison, planning committee, 2002 Arizona Native American Primary Care Resources Workshop Series
X Arizona Health Policy Roundtable. Founder and organizer. A gathering of leaders in a variety of state and health and social service organizations to explore current health policy issues. (1998-2004)

- X Arizona Turning Point Technology Subcommittee Communications Work Group member 1998-99

Education

MPA '85 Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Federal Funding Agency Review Committees

- X Peer Review Committee Member, telehealth network grants, Office of the Advancement of Telehealth (2003)
- X Peer Review Committee Member: Family Strengthening Program, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency, August, 2000.
- X Chair, Federal Peer Review Committee for Rural Health Outreach Grants, February 2000. (Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.)
- X Peer Review Committee Member: Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Outreach and/or Network Grants. 1995-99.
- X Peer Review Committee Member: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency, Community Partnership grants application cycle, 1998. State Incentive Program, 1999.
- X U. S. Department of Education: Eisenhower Leadership Grants Peer Reviewer 1994-95.
- X U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Peer Review Committee for Rural Hospital Transition Grants.
- X U.S. Department of Education: Special Services/Talent Search programs, the Women's Educational Equity Act, title X, and the Emergency School Assistance Act (1972-76)

Honors

- X 2005 Recipient "Woman in Profile," awarded by Women In Healthcare executives, Tucson Chapter.
- X 2003 and 2004 (two years) Recognition award from Indian Health Services, Tucson Area Office for contributions.
- X 2003 Recipient of University of Arizona Service Award through the Mel and Enid Zuckerman Arizona College of Public Health.
- \$ 2002 Recognition from HRSA Secretary Tommy Thompson for contributions as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health
- X 2001 Black Women's Task Force, Tucson, "Unsung Heroine" award
- X 2000 and 2001 American Public Health Association, Medical Care Section. Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service.

Selected Publications

Krupinski, Elizabeth, PhD; Hughes, Alison, MPA; Barker, Gail, MBA; Lopez, Ana Maria, MD, MPH; Weinstein, Ronald S., MD.: "Fluctuations in Telemedicine Case

Volume: Correlation with Personnel Turnover Rates. Telemedicine Journal and E-Health. Volume 9, Number 4, 2003.

Survey Results from the Arizona Enterprise Communities Telemedicine Questionnaire. American Telemedicine Association 2000 Annual Meeting. Co-authors, Driesen, Kevin E., MPH, MA, Hughes, Alison, MPA.

Weinstein, Ronald S., MD. Hughes, Alison, MPA. *Telemedical Project in Arizona*. Article published in AHealth Center Management, @ September/October 1999.

Weinstein, Ronald, MD., Hughes, Alison, MPA, McNeill, Kevin, PhD. AIssues in Telecommunications Access to Bring Telemedicine to Native American Health Facilities. @ Testimony provided to the Federal Communications Commission in May 1999, and in December, 1999.

Hughes, Alison, MPA. *Riding the HPSA Trail*. Article published in Rural Health Notes, January 1999 Issue of Medical Care Section, Rural Health Committee publication, American Public Health Association.

Hughes, Alison, MPA. *Connecting Arizona=s Enterprise Communities: Strategic Plan and Resource Guide for Telemedicine and Internet Connections*, 1998. Publication made possible with funding support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, TIIAP. (Principal Investigator on Grant)

Hughes, Alison, MPA. *Filerman Officers Up A Challenge*. Article published in ARural Route, @ the national publication for the Interdisciplinary Health Care for Rural Areas Grant Program. November/December, 1996.

Journal Reviews

- X *Journal of Rural Health*. Peer Reviewer in Fall, 2001
- X *Rural Health Research Journal*. Peer reviewer for Summer 1999 and Spring 1995 issues
- X *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. Peer Reviewer for Spring 1994 issue